ED KRIEGER

Cyberqueer

around his and Leonard Pullack's colorful set. Offering no particular insights or amusements into the theme of communication stunted by technology, St. Owens' play raises a more interesting discussion about the influence of sketch comedy — as seen in comedy clubs and on TV variety shows — upon playwriting. Like *Chatterbox*, so much of the rich history of experimental theater begins with theme rather than narrative. But here, the requisite apposite structure has been abandoned for a series of disconnected skits. Pig Latin Embassy, 6161 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hlywd.; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; thru May 11. (213) 962-OINK. (Randee Trabitz)

CYBERQUEER It isn't necessary to have on-line experience in order to appreciate Jake Specchio's menacingly funny comedy about queers, quirky fantasy, and love in cyberspace, but it sure does help — adding to the richness of a line such as "just a bunch of people typing their orgasms," an apt description of naughty on-line "chat." Andy Kreiss portrays a nebbish linguistics professor in search of the perfect man via computer and modem. Actually, it's Andy's attractive, muscular cyber-alter ego, Thor (Tom Paris), whom we see throughout most of the play, while Andy maintains his connection in the back shadows of his desk. Conjured with a stroke of the key, Thor interfaces with a gallery of erotic cyber-freaks, including an omniscient guardian of good manners and political correctness named Wicca (Julianne Grossman), and Frodo (Mark Anderson), a colorful chap in diapers and a beanie. Andy eventually finds his *gay-lord* thanks to the great on-line powers that be, but you'll have to log on to find out how. The play's conceit is already witty, but the writing's no-holds-barred humor and director Mark Bringleson's uncanny knack for surprises make it fly. Celebration Theater, 7051 Santa Monica Blvd., Hlywd.; Mon.-Wed., 8 p.m.; thru May 26. (213) 857-8085. (Lovell Estell III)

HEDDA GABLER Viewing Emmett Jacobs' staging of Henrik Ibsen's chestnut for East L.A. Classic Theater feels rather like pulling on a well-worn, comfortable sweater — not exactly a revelation, but certainly worth the effort. The beautiful Maria Canals plays the title role with viperous wit, as newlywed Hedda is stuck with hearing about the archaic academic specialty of her